

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman
The Honorable Michael O’Rielly, Commissioner
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner

Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
455 12th Street, Southwest
Washington, DC, 20544
Dear Chairman Pai,

We write to support the Comments of the Cable Act Preservation Alliance (“CAPA,” File ID 1114050901562) and to disapprove of the proposals and tentative conclusions set forth in the FCC’s September 25 Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in *Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992*, MB Docket 05-311.

Financial support for local access television broadcasting is vital to the best interest of all Vermonters. This local presence enables the residents of our state and communities to watch uniquely local programming about their community and local events and issues of interest to them. Given the rural nature of most of Vermont, no other form of local programming is available. In reality, the majority of this State has no other means of acquiring local information. The sole Vermont television station available to cable subscribers in Southern or Northeastern Vermont is located in Burlington, as much as 150 miles from the communities. This means that those residing in isolated rural, distant communities have no access

to locally generated and targeted information about their communities including local government, schools, or community services beyond those provided by community access television. Continued funding for these services is vital to the existence of an informed citizenry.

And that was the intent of the PEG provisions of the 1984 Cable Act – to enhance local voices, serve local community needs and interests, and strengthen our local democracy. By defining “franchise fee” in an overly broad fashion to include “in-kind” support, the FCC’s proposals will shift the fair balance between cable franchising authorities and cable operators and will force communities to choose between franchise fees and PEG channels – something that was never the intent of the Act.

We appreciate your consideration and hope you will protect PEG Access in our community and others by choosing not to adopt many of the proposals in the Further Notice.

Sincerely,

Elliott C. Greenblott
Chairman, Board of Civil Authority
Brattleboro, Vermont

AARP Vermont Fraud Watch Coordinator